MULTI AWARD WINNING!

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THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

SPORTS
Simone Biles takes gold at Worlds
p18

READING
October book pick is here!
p23

THE WEEK Junior Book Club

HOW TO
Activity ideas for Halloween
p24

October 20, 2023 • Vol. 4, Issue 183 • $5.99

Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

CALLS FOR PEACE

The world reacts to violence in Israel and Gaza p2

The Brandenburg Gate in Germany is lit up in support of Israel.

DID YOU KNOW?
The first prime minister of Israel was David Ben-Gurion, who served from 1948 to 1954 and from 1955 to 1963.

If you feel worried

It's understandable that you might feel upset about what's happening in the Middle East. If you do, talk with a trusted adult, share your feelings, and ask questions about things you're concerned about. Limit your exposure to news, and continue to do things you enjoy. Talk to your family about what you can do to help others.

War breaks out in Israel and Gaza

On October 7, a Palestinian militant group called Hamas launched a massive surprise attack against Israel, in the Middle East. It was some of the worst violence in Israel in 50 years. In response, Israel declared war against Hamas.

What is the history of Israel and Hamas?

Israel was created in 1948 as a Jewish state, after 6 million Jews were killed in the Holocaust during World War II (1939–1945). Palestinians are Arab people who have lived in the region since before Israel was created. Hamas is one of two major Palestinian political parties and is considered a terrorist group by Israel, the US, the European Union, and other nations. In a 1967 war, Israel seized control of two territories, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Israelis and Palestinians have been fighting over them ever since, and tens of thousands of people have died. Israel currently occupies the West Bank, but in 2007, Hamas took over Gaza, an area of about 140 square miles where more than 2 million people live. Gaza gets most of its food, water, fuel, and supplies from Israel. But after Hamas took control, Israel put Gaza under a blockade, which severely restricts people and goods going in and out and has created dire living conditions for people there.

What happened on October 7?

The attacks occurred early in the morning on Saturday, which was the Jewish Sabbath (holy day) and the holiday of Simchat Torah. Hamas launched thousands of rockets and invaded at least 20 Israeli towns and cities. More than 1,000 people were killed, including 14 Americans, and more than 2,500 were injured. At least 150 people were taken hostage, with some Americans among them, and many more are missing. Most of those killed or captured were civilians (not in the military). Hamas said the attacks were in protest of Israel's blockade of Gaza and occupation of the West Bank.

How did Israel respond?

Benjamin Netanyahu, the prime minister of Israel, said, "We are at war." The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF, the nation's army) launched airstrikes against Gaza that killed more than 900 people and injured more than 4,500, most of whom were civilians. Israel's defense minister, Yoav Gallant, ordered the Gaza blockade to be tightened. "Nothing is allowed in or out," he said. "There will be no fuel, electricity, or food supplies." People in Gaza were told to evacuate, and the United Nations (UN) said more than 187,000 people were displaced.

How is the world reacting?

"The people of Israel are under attack," said President Joe Biden. "I want to say to them and to the world, and to terrorists everywhere, that the United States stands with Israel." António Guterres, head of the UN, condemned the attacks "in the strongest terms" and called for an end to the violence on both sides. He also said he was "deeply distressed" by the tightening of the blockade in Gaza and asked Israel to allow humanitarian relief in the region. Peace vigils were held around the world. Many landmark buildings, including the Empire State Building in New York City and the Eiffel Tower in Paris, were lit in blue and white to show support for Israel.

What is being done to help people?

Individuals and humanitarian groups in Israel and Gaza are offering help to those in need. They are securing transportation and shelter for people who are fleeing and providing food, clothing, and medical care. Nonprofit groups are accepting donations to help Israelis and Palestinians.

What will happen next?

When *The Week Junior* went to press, the fighting was ongoing. The US pledged to provide weapons and other aid to Israel. Netanyahu said Israel will use all its strength to destroy Hamas. "This war will take time," he said. "It will be difficult."

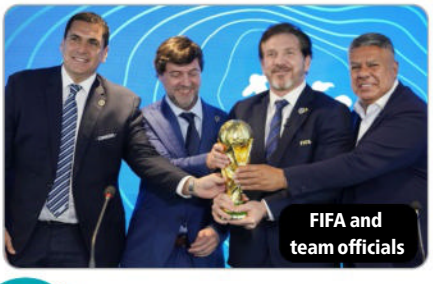
Sites for World Cup are chosen

Six countries have been selected to host the 2030 men's soccer World Cup. The locations were announced by FIFA, the international governing body for the sport, on October 4.

This will be the first time the tournament is played on more than one continent. Most of the matches will take place in Spain, Portugal, and Morocco. Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay will host one match each as a way to mark the 100th anniversary of the first World Cup, which was hosted by Uruguay in 1930.

The Men's World Cup takes place every four years, and host nations are chosen years in advance. While many people praised the plan to host three matches in South America, some soccer fans and sports journalists said it was disappointing to have so few competitions there.

FIFA will formally approve the 2030 hosting plan in 2024. The next World Cup, in 2026, will be hosted by the US, Canada, and Mexico, marking the first time a group of countries will host the tournament together.



FIFA and team officials

Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman

WOW! At age 17 in 2014, Malala Yousafzai of Pakistan became the youngest person ever to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

Nobel Prize winners announced

From October 2 to October 9, the 2023 Nobel Prizes were announced. They are among the world's most prestigious awards.

The prizes were established by Alfred Nobel, a Swedish inventor, entrepreneur, scientist, and businessman. They recognize groundbreaking achievements in six categories: peace, medicine or physiology, physics, chemistry, literature, and economics.

This year, the medicine or physiology prize went to Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman, from the University of Pennsylvania, for making it possible to create vaccines against Covid-19. Pierre Agostini (US), Ferenc Krausz (Germany), and Anne L'Huillier (Sweden) won the physics prize for looking inside atoms and molecules. The chemistry prize went to US researchers Moungi G. Bawendi, Louis E. Brus, and Alexei I. Ekimov for discovering quantum dots, which are used in TV screens and medical equipment. Norwegian author Jon Fosse won the literature prize. The economics prize went to Claudia Goldin of Harvard University for her research on women in the workforce.

The 2023 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Narges Mohammadi of Iran, who has spent 30 years advocating for the rights of women and minorities. She is currently in prison because of her work. Mohammadi is the 19th woman to win the prize since it was first awarded in 1901.

Each prize includes an award of about $1 million, which is evenly split if there are multiple winners. Winners, known as Nobel laureates, will receive a diploma and medal at ceremonies in Sweden and Norway in December.

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

MEERKAT MANIA

Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington, DC, announced that its "meerkat mob" has grown, with three new pups born to parents Sadie and Frankie. They are the second litter of meerkat pups to be born at the zoo in 16 years.

Sadie and pups

A SWEET BIRTHDAY

Milky Way candy bars are celebrating their 100th birthday. In 1923, chocolatier Frank Mars' 19-year-old son, Forrest, suggested making a candy bar based on a malted milkshake. They created the malt-flavored nougat and caramel treat, and today, millions are sold each year.

EXPANDING THE DICTIONARY

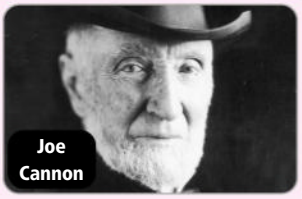
Merriam-Webster recently added 690 words, including "doggo" (dog), "mid" (neither very good nor very bad), and "GOATED" (thought to be the greatest of all time). "Signs of a healthy language include words being created," dictionary officials said, and "we are pleased to inform you that English is very (very!) healthy."

ON THE COVER: GETTY IMAGES (5); ON THIS PAGE: ALAMY; AP; SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL ZOO; MARS, INC. (2); ON LEFT PAGE: AP; GETTY IMAGES (2)

DID YOU KNOW?
If a President resigns or dies, the Speaker of the House is second in line to fill the job, after the Vice President.

The US Capitol building, where Congress meets

A rebellion in 1910


Joe Cannon

The only other time the House of Representatives voted on whether to dismiss its speaker was in 1910. Republicans said Joe Cannon was too resistant to the changes they were trying to enact in the government. The "Revolt of 1910" failed, but Republicans did successfully reduce the amount of power the speaker holds.

Congress in disarray after leadership vote

For the first time in US history, the House of Representatives (one half of Congress, the branch of government that makes laws) voted its top leader, the Speaker of the House, out of the position. Lawmakers said they were unhappy with how Speaker Kevin McCarthy, a Republican from California, handled the federal budget.

What happened with the budget?

Each year by September 30, a federal budget must be passed by the House and the Senate (the other half of Congress). If that doesn't happen, many government agencies must shut down. This year, Republicans and Democrats disagreed over what the budget should include. The day before a shutdown would have begun, McCarthy reached a deal with Democrats to keep the government open for 45 days while budget negotiations continued. After the House and Senate approved the bill, President Joe Biden signed it into law.

What happened with the speaker?

Some House Republicans, led by Matt Gaetz of Florida, were angry at McCarthy for working with Democrats and vowed to fire him. On October 3, the House voted 216–210 to remove McCarthy, with eight Republicans and all Democrats voting in favor. This created a division among Republicans. Some, such as Tom Cole of Oklahoma, said McCarthy did the right thing and should remain the speaker. Patrick McHenry, a Republican from North Carolina, was named temporary speaker. Without a permanent speaker, bills can't move through the House, which means Congress can't pass laws.

How is a new speaker chosen?

The House must hold an election that includes all 434 members. A candidate can win by a majority of 218 votes. Republicans have 222 members, 10 more than the Democrats, so a candidate can't lose more than four Republican votes to win. Jim Jordan of Ohio and Steve Scalise of Louisiana have said they are running for the job. McCarthy said on October 9 that he would serve again if elected.

What will happen next?

When *The Week Junior* went to press on October 10, a new speaker had not been selected. Some lawmakers told *The Washington Post* they hope to have a new leader before October 15. Meanwhile, Congress must finalize a federal budget by November 17 to avoid a government shutdown.

WORD OF THE WEEK

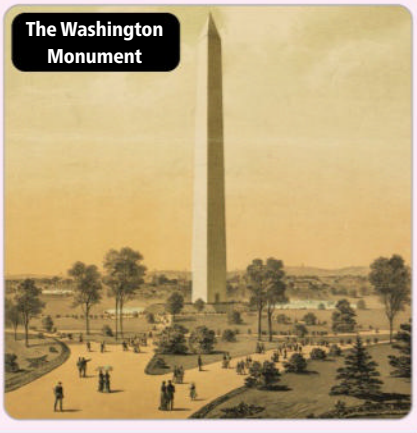
CHAOS

Some headlines this week have proclaimed the House of Representatives to be in "chaos." The word began with the Greek *khaos*, which described a large hole or void. It then became a name for the formless matter that the universe was believed to have been created from. This idea inspired the modern use of the word to mean confusion and disorder.

THE WEEK IN HISTORY

October 9, 1888
The Washington Monument opens

On October 9, 1888, the Washington Monument opened to the public in Washington, DC. Standing 555 feet high, it was the world's tallest building at the time and honored the nation's first President, George Washington. On opening day, 32 people crammed into its steam-powered elevator for a trip to the top. Today, it remains the tallest building in Washington, DC.


The Washington Monument

Pay raise for fast-food workers

A new law in California will increase the minimum wage for fast-food workers to $20 per hour starting on April 1, 2024. The state's top leader, Governor Gavin Newsom, signed the bill into law on October 5 surrounded by cheering workers. The pay increase will affect more than 550,000 people in California, and proponents of the law said it acknowledges that fast-food workers may be the main wage earners in their household.

Postal stamp honors justice

The US Postal Service (USPS) has released a new stamp honoring Ruth Bader Ginsburg (1933–2020), who served as a justice on the US Supreme Court for 27 years. It depicts an oil painting of Ginsburg by artist Michael Deas, who based it on a photograph taken by Philip Bermingham in 2017. The USPS said the stamp celebrates Ginsburg's "groundbreaking contributions to justice, gender equality, and the rule of law."

New helmet for deaf players

A new football helmet has been introduced at Gallaudet University, a college for deaf and hard of hearing students in Washington, DC. The helmet, created by Gallaudet with the communications company AT&T, uses technology that allows a coach to call a play on a tablet that then shows up on a screen inside the player's helmet. The hope is that the helmet will make football more accessible for all athletes.

"Genius grants" awarded to 20 people

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation has announced the 20 people who will be named MacArthur fellows for 2023. Also known as "genius grants," MacArthur fellowships are awarded to Americans who have demonstrated "exceptional creativity" and have the potential to do more. Each of the 2023 MacArthur fellows will receive a grant of $800,000.

The MacArthur Foundation was established in 1970 and is based in Chicago, Illinois. Since the fellows program began in 1981, between 20 and 30 new fellows have been selected every year. Potential fellows do not apply but are nominated and endorsed by their peers and communities. The fellows receive their grant money in quarterly installments over a period of five years, and they can spend the money however they choose.

This year's fellows include writers, artists, scientists, and legal experts. One is Ada Limón, who has published six books of poetry and is the current US poet laureate. Another, biologist Jason D. Buenrostro, has developed new technologies that provide detailed views of genes (the chemical that carries the information about a living thing).

Among the other fellows, E. Tendayi Achiume is a legal scholar who has studied migration laws and how they can lead to racial oppression. Computer scientist Lester Mackey has developed new ways of analyzing and interpreting data. Linsey Marr conducted research that increased understanding of how viruses travel through the air.

Courtney Bryan, a music composer and a 2023 fellow, told *The New York Times* she hopes to use her grant to support musicians in New Orleans. Many fellows said they were unsure how they would spend the money but were getting ideas about how it could help their work.

"If we can focus our efforts on the problems that matter to us," said Mackey, positive change will follow. "This is our world," he said. "If we don't take care of it, who will?"

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Dog caught behind the wheel of speeding car in Slovakia" ***UPI***

MACARTHUR FOUNDATION (5); GETTY IMAGES (2); USPS; AT&T; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3); LOC

Around the world

Inspecting the hidden floor

King's Lynn, UK
Possibly famous floorboards found

A theater in England claims to have discovered the only surviving stage where renowned playwright William Shakespeare (1564–1616) performed. The wooden boards of a 15th-century stage were found under a floor at St. George's Guildhall during a renovation. Some Shakespeare experts expressed doubt about the significance of the boards, saying the playwright may not have come in contact with them.

Dancers at the school

Cartagena, Colombia
Dance school opens new home

The Colegio del Cuerpo, a school for young dancers, has its first permanent home. The school was founded in 1997, when dancers Alvaro Restrepo and Marie France Delieuvin began visiting neighborhoods to teach children how to dance. Set in a clearing in a forest, the new school is partly constructed out of recycled wood. About 140 students ages 9 to 17 are enrolled in an after-school program at the school three times per week.

Mohammad Annan and Lujain Al Mansoori

Doha, Qatar
Students build 3D vegetable printer

Two college students created a 3D printer that can print large numbers of vegetables. Mohammad Annan and Lujain Al Mansoori used artificially grown vegetable cells and special light to make a prototype (test) carrot. Mansoori told Al Jazeera news they hope to print more kinds of vegetables and that 3D printers will someday make food accessible "to people all over the world."

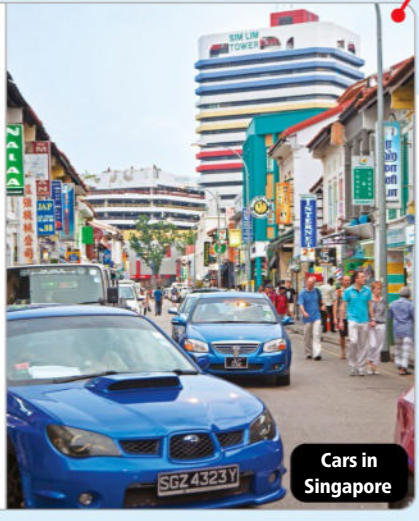
France
Social media fuels bug panic

The French government is working to contain a national panic—driven in part by social media—over bedbugs. Bedbugs are small insects that can burrow in furniture or bedding. Some schools have temporarily closed because of the bugs. However, transportation chief Clément Beaune tried to quell fears, saying, "There is no resurgence of cases."

A mattress is treated to kill bedbugs.

Singapore
Car owners pay more

It can now cost over $106,000 to get permission to own a car in Singapore, one of the world's most expensive countries. Singapore has a certificate system to control the number of cars in the small, densely populated nation. The government controls the number of certificates that are sold, and demand for cars has risen following the Covid-19 pandemic. Including the certificate, a new standard Toyota Camry Hybrid currently costs $183,000, according to Reuters.


Cars in Singapore

GETTY IMAGES (6); ZACHARY CULPIN/BNPS; COURTESY GRANGE DEVELOPMENT; VIBEKE LIA/KULTURARV; VESTFOLD AND TELEMARK COUNTY COUNCIL; COURTESY OF STEPHEN MACNEIL AT CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

The Aasviks' treasure yard

Jomfruland, Norway
Family finds Viking treasure

A family in Norway discovered Viking treasure while searching for a lost earring. Using a metal detector, the Aasvik family found artifacts that are more than 1,000 years old under a tree in their yard. The treasures included a clasp and a buckle shaped like a bowl. Experts believe they were used in a Viking burial in the ninth century.

Rescue workers in Herat

Herat, Afghanistan
Rescuers step in after earthquake

Emergency teams have been working to rescue people after earthquakes struck the Herat province of Afghanistan on October 7. More than 2,400 people have died and at least 2,000 were injured in remote areas of a country that is also struggling with widespread poverty. Camps have been set up for people who have lost their homes, and cities have put out donation boxes so others can help.

Rain in Hong Kong

Hong Kong
Heavy rain closes schools

Schools closed after a severe tropical storm brought torrential (fast and heavy) rain and strong winds to Hong Kong on October 9. Nearly six inches of rain was recorded overnight in most parts, while rainfall exceeded 11 inches in some areas. Hundreds of people were stranded at the airport and in underground train stations. A month ago, Hong Kong experienced its heaviest rain in 140 years.

Perth, Australia
A "hybrid" tower

Plans to build a 627-foot-tall wooden "hybrid" tower have been approved in Western Australia. The tower will be made from environmentally friendly wood beams, supported by a steel exoskeleton. The project also aims to be eco-friendly in other ways. For example, it will have a rooftop garden and an area to grow food. Once its complete, the tower will be the tallest building of its kind in the world.

An artist's impression

A street in Florence

Florence, Italy
City bans vacation home rentals

The city of Florence is banning all new short-term rentals of private homes in the city's historic center, including those listed on popular vacation accommodation websites such as Airbnb. The ban is intended to free up homes for local people to live in. Dario Nardella, the mayor of Florence, said he wants to "preserve the beauty and livability of our city."

BOO! 2023

Is candy corn yum or yuck?

DID YOU KNOW? National Candy Corn Day is celebrated on October 30.

Whether they love it or hate it, people have strong feelings about this Halloween treat.

What you need to know

- **Candy corn was invented in the 1880s by George Renninger, a candymaker in Pennsylvania. It was a harvest-themed treat that was called "chicken feed" or "chicken corn."**
- **Residents of Utah rank candy corn as their favorite Halloween candy, and people in 10 other states put it in their top three, according to CandyStore.com.**
- **More than 35 million pounds of candy corn are sold each year in the US—that's 7 billion pieces of it.**

Candy corn comes around once a year—along with some very strong opinions about the seasonal treat. In a recent national poll, Americans were almost evenly split on whether they love or hate the three-color triangular candy. Those who love it look forward to the Halloween season and say candy corn is a vital part of the holiday tradition. There are children's books and even cookbooks devoted to candy corn. Others, however, hate the super-sweet sugary confection. They're so opposed to candy corn that they've written articles and appeared on TV to speak out against it. What do you think? Is candy corn yum or yuck?

Yum—it's a fun and tasty tradition

What's not to love about candy corn? It's sweet, buttery, colorful, and the perfect compact size. It's also fun to eat. You can eat it whole, bite into it from the white tip or yellow base, or nibble on its chewy orange center from the side. Millions of people look forward to this time of year, when they can sink their teeth into candy corn. That many taste buds can't be wrong. Plus, candy corn is an American tradition. There aren't many candies that your grandparents, parents, and you can all say you enjoyed as children at Halloween. If some people hate candy corn, they're missing out.

Yuck—other candy is better

Candy corn may be popular at Halloween, but there's a reason we see it only at this time of year. It's sickly sweet, with a taste that has been compared to candle wax. If candy corn were so great, variations of it would be popular at other holidays, like Valentine's Day, Hanukkah, and Christmas. But imitators like "reindeer corn" haven't caught on. Why? There's better candy out there. When CandyStore.com asked 12,000 people to rank the best and worst Halloween candy, candy corn turned up as #2 on the list of the worst. In a world full of chocolate, Skittles, and peanut butter cups, there's no need for candy corn.

YUM Three reasons why candy corn is yum

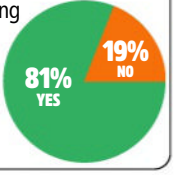
1. **It's a perfectly sweet and tasty treat, and there are so many fun ways to eat it.**
2. **Millions of Americans love these colorful kernels, which means it has to be good.**
3. **There's nothing else like candy corn, which parents and grandparents enjoyed as kids. What's sweeter than a shared holiday tradition?**

YUCK Three reasons why candy corn is yuck

1. **Candy corn is overly sweet and has no real flavor of its own—it's just gross.**
2. **If candy corn were really that delicious, it would be sold, bought, and enjoyed year-round, not only at Halloween.**
3. **Candy corn can't compare to tastier candy, like rich chocolate, fruity Skittles, and creamy peanut butter cups.**

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if cats should be kept indoors at night. Most of you voted in favor of keeping felines inside: 81% of you said yes, and 19% said no.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YUM if you think candy corn is delicious or YUCK if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

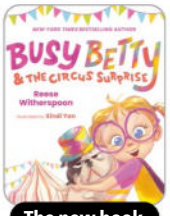
The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

GETTY IMAGES

Life lessons in business

Besides being an award-winning actor, Reese Witherspoon is the founder of a production company, Hello Sunshine, and an author. Her new picture book, *Busy Betty & the Circus Surprise,* is about how being creative and determined can help young people achieve their dreams. She spoke to *The Week Junior* about how she followed her passions as a child.

What is your new book about?
Witherspoon: The main character, Betty, has big ideas on how to start a business. When she faces failure, she has to make the most of a messy situation. I hope readers are inspired by how Betty picks herself up and keeps trying.



The new book

What was your first business?
Witherspoon: In third grade, my older brother bought me hair barrettes at the mall and suggested I bring them to school and offer to customize them with people's names. I did, and I sold all of them. I also had to stay after school that day for getting ink all over my desk.

What did you learn from that?
Witherspoon: Besides learning that I couldn't sell products at school, I realized that customizing makes products special.

What are good business ideas for kids?
Witherspoon: Start with your passion. My own kids loved to bake, so they had cupcake stands and even had a snow cone stand. Trying to make sure the snow cones didn't melt was really funny.

What were your favorite books growing up?
Witherspoon: My grandmother was a first-grade teacher and read to me all the time. I loved Beverly Cleary's Ramona books. I thought Ramona was so fun. Plus, she had a lemonade business!

If you could tell young people one thing about school, what would it be?
Witherspoon: You'll have more friendships and have a better experience if you're open to being part of different groups and are the most accepting person you can be.

Reese Witherspoon

AWARD ALERT
Reese Witherspoon won an Oscar award in 2006 for Best Actress in the film *Walk the Line.*

A historic new role

USA Swimming has named Anthony Nesty to lead the US men's swimming team at the 2024 Olympics in Paris, making him the first Black head swim coach in US Olympic history. Nesty first made history in 1988 when he became the first Black male swimmer to win Olympic gold, competing for Suriname, in the 100-meter butterfly race. As the head swim coach at the University of Florida, he also works with top swimmers Katie Ledecky and Bobby Finke. Nesty said he is excited for his new role and looking forward to next summer.

Anthony Nesty

Michael Gambon

Mourning an actor

British actor Michael Gambon, best known for playing Professor Albus Dumbledore in the *Harry Potter* films, died on September 28 at age 82. In a career of nearly 60 years, he starred on stage and screen and won four British Academy of Film and Television Arts awards (BAFTA, a top honor in the UK's entertainment industry). He played Dumbledore, Hogwarts' headmaster and mentor to Harry Potter, in the last six *Harry Potter* films. Actor Daniel Radcliffe, who played Harry, said of Gambon, "The thing I will remember most about him is how much fun he had doing his job."

OVERHEARD

"Hope isn't something you possess, it's something you practice."
Poet Amanda Gorman, age 25, on what she reminds herself each day for inspiration

GETTY IMAGES (4); BOOK: COURTESY OF PUBLISHER

DID YOU KNOW?
Takahē chicks are black with white beaks, gaining colorful feathers as they grow into adults.

The takahē has returned to its home.

Australia's top bird

From September 25 to October 5, an online poll was held to choose the Australian bird of the year. This year's contestants ranged from the tiny spotted pardalote to the big powerful owl, whose wingspan can reach more than 4 feet. After an exciting race, the swift parrot took the crown.

A swift parrot

Native birds are back in the wild

For the first time in about 100 years, a rare bird called the takahē is roaming the Lake Whakatipu Waimaori Valley in New Zealand after 18 captive birds were released into the wild. The area is also home to a Maori tribe called Ngāi Tahu, which has spent years campaigning for the birds to return to their land. The Maori are New Zealand's Indigenous people (first people known to live there), and they consider the takahē bird to be "taonga," meaning a treasure.

Stoats prey on takahē.

Takahē are large, round, flightless birds with red legs, and they have lived in New Zealand since prehistoric times. Like many New Zealand birds, takahē evolved to be flightless because there were no mammals to compete with. When Europeans arrived in New Zealand, however, predators such as stoats, cats, and ferrets were introduced and killed off many flightless birds. Takahē were declared extinct in 1898, but a small number of the birds were discovered in 1948 in a remote part of the Murchison Mountains.

Since then, conservationists have been trying to restore the takahē population in captivity. They gathered the birds' eggs in order to keep the chicks safe from predators. The chicks were raised by volunteers, who fed them while wearing sock puppets on their hands to imitate the parent birds. There are now about 500 takahē birds in captivity. Several pairs of adult birds have been released into the island's sanctuaries and national parks. Experts will monitor them to see how they adapt to their new environment. If everything goes well, they hope to release seven more birds this month and 10 young birds next year.

Tā Tipene O'Regan, an elder of the Ngāi Tahu tribe, helped to release the birds. He told *The Guardian* newspaper, "There are few things more beautiful than to watch these large birds galloping back into...lands where they haven't walked for over a century." O'Regan said, "It's an absolute joy."

PLACE OF THE WEEK

Devils Postpile National Monument, California

This area was once part of Yosemite National Park but was established as a separate national monument in 1911. Devils Postpile is a striking formation made up of columns of volcanic rock, formed 80,000 to 100,000 years ago, which stand up to 60 feet high. About 115 bird species and several mammals, including black bears, pine martens, coyotes, and brush mice, live in the surrounding wilderness. Visitors can hike to Rainbow Falls, named as such because rainbows are visible in the mist on clear, sunny days.

A black bear

A whale shark

Ecotourism could be harming sharks

Ecotourism is a type of tourism that is supposed to avoid harming the natural world. But according to a new study, shark ecotourism (when people pay to swim with wild sharks) could be making life more difficult for the marine creatures.

The new study suggests that whale sharks, the world's largest species of fish, are more likely to show disturbed behavior patterns when tourists are nearby. For example, they may swim in fast, zigzag movements, which they normally use when swimming away from predators. This uses up the energy they need for other activities, such as foraging for food. Researchers at Imperial College London, in the UK, discovered this by analyzing 39 videos of whale sharks swimming alone or alongside a person pretending to be an ecotourist. Disturbed behavior patterns increased when humans were present.

The researchers believe that sharks' behavior should be examined before allowing swimmers into the water and that ecotourists should stay farther away from the creatures. More studies could be done to find out what impact ecotourism is having on other species.

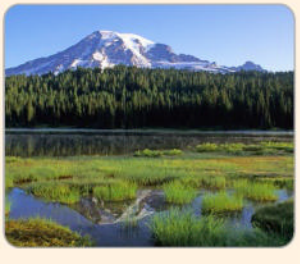
Animal of the week: African wild donkey

An African wild donkey foal was born at Marwell Zoo in the UK. The species, a member of the horse family, is critically endangered. Today, fewer than 200 of these donkeys live in the wild in Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Somalia.

- **LIFE SPAN:** 25 to 30 years
- **HABITAT:** Shrub and grassland in eastern Africa
- **DIET:** Grass and leaves from bushes and trees
- **SIZE:** About 6.5 feet long and 600 pounds
- **FUN FACT:** They can go three days without water, then rehydrate in two to five minutes.

Good week / Bad week

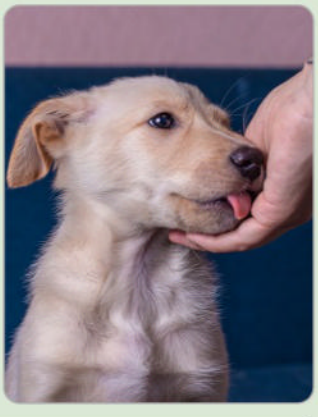
Coral
Researchers have successfully preserved and revived corals by freezing them—a technique called cryopreservation. Experts say this strategy could be used to prevent the world's coral reefs from disappearing as the oceans heat up.



Glaciers in Washington
Mount Rainier—the most glacier-covered mountain in the 48 contiguous (connected) US states—is now losing its glaciers due to global warming. According to a new report, one glacier has disappeared and two are in "serious peril."

Ask an Expert: "Why do dogs lick your hands?" Grey, 8, North Carolina

Sarah Carotenuto
Professor, University of Arizona College of Veterinary Medicine



Dogs may lick your hands for several reasons. They can lick you because they like you, they may be showing submission (telling you that you are in charge), or you may have something tasty on your hands, like salty sweat, icing, or leftover mac and cheese. Yum!

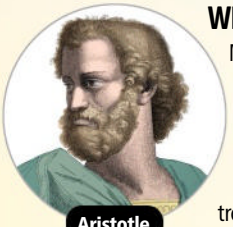
Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Find out more about the UA College of Veterinary Medicine at vetmed.arizona.edu.

GETTY IMAGES (5); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (4); ALAMY

The science behind

Humans' study of Earth's atmosphere dates back hundreds of years.

If the weather forecast is among the first things you look at in the morning, you have meteorology to thank. Find out more about this fascinating branch of science.



Aristotle

What is meteorology?

Meteorology is the study of the atmosphere and its phenomena. It focuses on the lowest parts of Earth's atmosphere, such as the troposphere, where most of the processes of weather take place. People have been trying to predict and understand weather for centuries because it affects many aspects of life on Earth, from what we wear to the activities we do. The name "meteorology" comes from the Greek philosopher Aristotle, who wrote a book about weather and climate called *Meteorologica* in about 340 BCE. He based the name on the Greek word "meteoron," which meant "a thing high up."

A Groundhog Day celebration

How was weather predicted long ago?

For many years, people made guesses about the weather based on what they could see, hear, and feel. They looked at the color of the sky and came up with sayings such as "Red sky at night, sailor's delight; red sky in the morning, sailor's warning." (A red sky often occurs at sunset when stable air is moving in from the west, while red sunrises mean the good weather has already passed.) People also watched animal behavior. Birds tend to fly low when a storm is coming, for example. Some beliefs—such as a groundhog seeing its shadow on February 2 indicating six more weeks of winter—were proven wrong but endured.

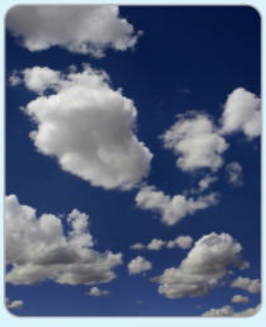
GETTY IMAGES

WOW! The National Weather Service employs at least 2,000 meteorologists and technicians at more than 150 offices across the US.

A mighty summer thunderstorm

What clouds can reveal

Meteorologists have learned that the unique shapes of clouds can indicate different kinds of weather. Here are a few common types of clouds and what they mean.



Cumulus

These puffy clouds look like fluffy cotton balls floating low in the sky. The tops of cumulus clouds are mostly bright white when lit by the Sun, while their base is darker. They can usually be seen on a beautiful day when the weather is fair.

the weather

DID YOU KNOW?
Lightning flashes more than 3 million times a day worldwide—about 40 times per second.

WEATHER PIONEER
Benjamin Franklin has been called America's first national meteorologist. He studied storms and proved that lightning was a form of electricity.

A barometer

What changed?

In the 17th and 18th centuries, there was a growing belief in the scientific method (answering questions about the world by conducting experiments and gathering data). People soon applied this method to meteorology and made new discoveries. After observing that weather was connected to changes in air pressure, the Italian physicist Evangelista Torricelli invented a device called a barometer to measure it. In 1714, German physicist Daniel Fahrenheit created a thermometer to measure air temperature with mercury, a metal that expands as it heats up. The telegraph, patented in 1837, helped meteorologists share information and produce modern weather maps. In the 1920s, Norwegian scientists discovered how masses of cold and warm air affect weather.

A weather balloon

What do meteorologists do now?

Today, these scientists collect data using tools such as radar technology, satellites, and weather balloons, which carry instruments to measure wind and temperature. Computers help analyze data and predict what will happen so meteorologists can inform people about upcoming weather conditions and events, including natural disasters like hurricanes and tornadoes. In the US, the National Weather Service, a federal government agency, provides information on weather, water, and climate. Many of today's meteorologists study climate change. They say global warming could change Earth's weather patterns and make them more difficult to predict. Modern tools, like models that use artificial intelligence (AI), may help to make the science more precise and accurate.

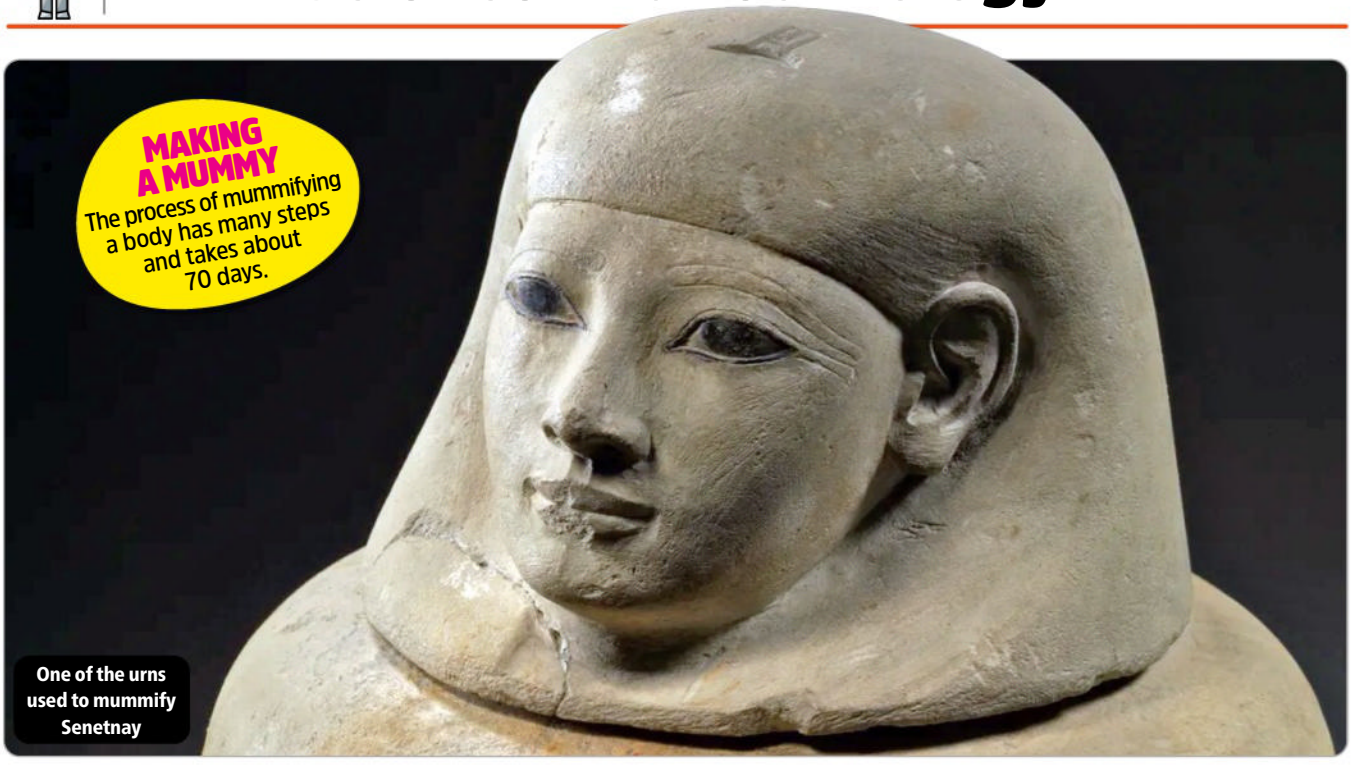
Cumulonimbus

Watch out for rain, hail, or even tornadoes when you see these dense, towering storm clouds. Often referred to as the "King of Clouds," tall cumulonimbus varieties often form as warm, wet air rises up through the sky.

Cirrus

Thin, feather-like cirrus clouds are mostly made up of ice crystals that are twisted and shaped by wind. These delicate, wispy clouds appear high in the sky, and seeing them means a change in the weather is coming.

** It's an anemometer—a common tool in weather stations that measures the force or speed of wind.*



MAKING A MUMMY
The process of mummifying a body has many steps and takes about 70 days.

One of the urns used to mummify Senetnay

What did mummies smell like?

Scientists re-created the scent of a mummy buried more than 3,500 years ago, and it smelled far better than people might imagine.

When ancient Egyptians preserved the bodies of important people, they removed their organs and put them in clay urns. Many of those urns have been discovered in tombs in Egypt.

A team of researchers at the Max Planck Institute in Germany studied two urns from about 1450 BCE that once held the preserved organs of a woman named Senetnay. She was a noblewoman who helped raise King Amenhotep II when he was an infant. Though the organs were gone, the urns contained the residue of different balms (pleasant-smelling ointments) that were used during the mummification process.

An Egyptian mummy

The scientists closely examined the chemical makeup of the balms using a technique called mass spectrometry. They found that the blend of substances included the resin (sticky substance produced by some trees) of larch trees and several other tree species. There were also traces of animal fats, plant oils, and beeswax.

Working with expert perfumers and scent scientists, the team determined what the mix of ingredients would smell like. They dubbed the resulting fragrance the "scent of eternity."

The urns contained different substances, which led the team to believe that Egyptians varied the ingredients for different organs. The findings also indicated that Egyptians were using ingredients imported from other parts of the world, including the Mediterranean region and Southeast Asia.

The balms used to preserve Senetnay's organs contained these rare ingredients, which confirmed her high social standing. "The number of imported ingredients in her balm also highlights Senetnay's importance as a key member of the pharaoh's inner circle," said Nicole Boivin, a study author.

The scent will be available for the public to experience at the Moesgaard Museum in Denmark. The team hopes it gives people a sensory connection to the past. It "embodies the rich cultural, historical, and spiritual significance of Ancient Egyptian [burial] practices," said Barbara Huber, the lead study author.

Ancient mummy workshops

One of the workshops

Archaeologists (scientists who study objects from long ago) recently found two of the largest workshops used by ancient Egyptians to mummify humans and animals. Between 2,000 and 2,400 years old, they are located in Saqqara, a massive necropolis (cemetery) where many pharaohs (kings) are buried.

One of the workshops has several rooms and contains stone beds where bodies were washed before mummification. The second workshop contained different kinds of equipment and is believed to have been used for animals. Ancient Egyptians mummified many animals they considered sacred, including cats, snakes, crocodiles, and large birds like hawks and ibises.

Prizes celebrate weird and wacky science

The 2023 Ig Nobel Prizes were awarded for scientific research on topics like nose hair, electrified chopsticks, and rock licking. The prizes are given out annually for "research that makes people laugh…then think," according to their creators.

The Ig Nobels were inspired by the Nobel Prizes, which are among the world's most prestigious awards (see page 3). Nobel Prizes in science celebrate research that benefits humankind. Ig Nobels, on the other hand, "celebrate the unusual, honor the imaginative—and spur people's interest in science, medicine, and technology." They do this by making science accessible, and even funny, while also demonstrating that odd research can be important.

TWICE AS NICE
Russian physicist Andre Geim was the first person to win both a Nobel Prize (in 2010) and an Ig Nobel Prize (in 2000).

This year's 10 winning projects included an exploration of how licking a rock is useful for assessing its mineral makeup. Another used electrified chopsticks and drinking straws to change the taste of food and drinks. The method could help people on restricted diets get greater enjoyment from food. One project was a toilet that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to scan people's poop for signs of disease.

The Ig Nobel Prizes are traditionally handed out by actual Nobel Prize recipients. This year, there was a virtual ceremony announcing the winners, and an in-person ceremony will take place at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in November.

The award-winning AI toilet

Rare pink diamonds

Pink diamonds formed in Earth break up

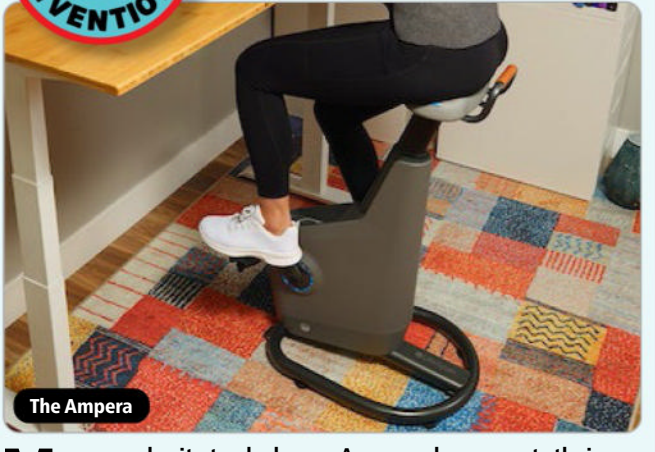
About 90% of the world's pink diamonds come from one source—the Argyle Mine in Western Australia—and scientists now know why. The colorful gems were pushed to the surface when a supercontinent (ancient landmass that took up most of Earth) named Nuna broke apart about 1.3 billion years ago.

For many years, scientists thought the Argyle formation was about 1.2 billion years old, which meant it didn't exist until after Nuna had broken up. But recently, a team of researchers in Australia used modern laser technology to reassess Argyle's age. They found that it was actually about 1.3 billion years old, meaning it was created when Nuna was breaking up.

Pink diamonds are among the rarest on Earth. Like other colored diamonds, they are regular diamonds that have undergone extra pressure while they are being formed deep underground.

AMAZING INVENTION

A desk bike that powers devices

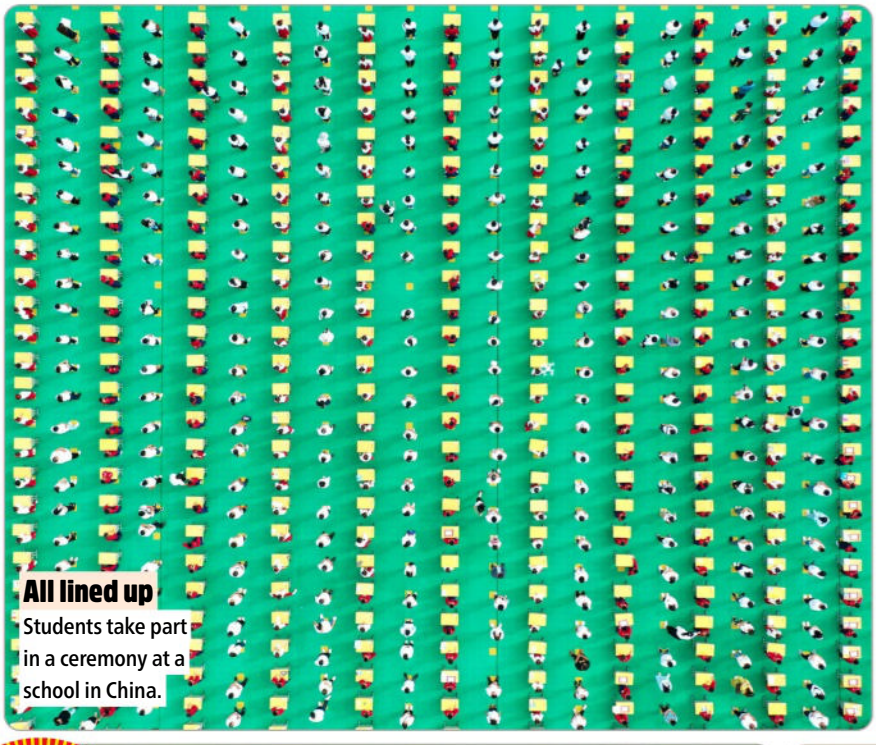

The Ampera

Many people sit at a desk for hours a day, which can be harmful to their health. LifeSpan Fitness has a solution. The company, based in Utah, designed the Ampera, a stationary bike that replaces a desk chair and lets people pedal while they work. The Ampera also converts their activity into electricity.

Pedaling generates about 65 watts of power per hour, which can charge smartphones and laptops. The bike is designed to maintain good seating posture, and riders can connect to an app that tracks fitness levels.

PA; MURRAY RAYNER; AMPERA; ON LEFT PAGE: CHRISTIAN TEPPER/MUSEUM AUGUST KESTNER; SUSANNE BECK/SAQQARA SAITE TOMBS PROJECT; GETTY IMAGES

Photos of the week



All lined up
Students take part in a ceremony at a school in China.

READER PHOTO

In bloom
This close-up of a tiger lily was taken by Miriam, 13, of Oregon.

Intricate design
A museum in Turkey is known for its newly restored "Green Dome."

GETTY IMAGES (4); LEANNA; MIRIAM

Photos of the week

Lots of legumes
Black-and-white heirloom bean seeds are displayed at a fair in California.

Facial features
An artist puts the finishing touches on an idol of a god at a workshop in Nepal.

Rock on
Leanna, 9, of California snapped this shot in her backyard.

READER PHOTO

The US women's gymnastics team

Men's gymnastics news

The US men's gymnastics team (above) won bronze at the World Championships. They had gone nine years without a medal at a global competition. Team member Frederick Richard also won the all-around bronze, while Khoi Young won silver on the horse and vault.

Biles and US gymnasts are world champs

From September 30 to October 8, the 2023 Artistic Gymnastics World Championships were held in Antwerp, Belgium. The event featured top athletes from around the globe and gave a preview of what fans may see at the 2024 Olympics in Paris, France.

The gold medalists in the team competitions were the US women and the Japanese men. It was the seventh consecutive team gold at Worlds for the US, which is a record. After that, US gymnast Simone Biles went on to win four individual medals, including three more golds. She now has 37 medals from the Olympics and Worlds combined, making her the most decorated male or female gymnast in history.

The US women's team was made up of Biles, Skye Blakely, Shilese Jones, Joscelyn Roberson, and Leanne Wong. However, they won the team gold with four gymnasts competing instead of five. During warmups, Roberson hurt her ankle, so she sat out. Wong, who had expected to compete only on beam, filled in for her on the vault and floor. Biles also played a big role in the team's victory. In the final rotation, she earned the highest score of the day with her floor exercise routine, which helped the US finish nearly 2.2 points ahead of Brazil, which won the silver. France, which had not won a team medal since 1950, took the bronze.

Biles' first individual gold of the competition came two days later in the all-around. She beat the 2022 world champion, Rebeca Andrade of Brazil, who took silver. Jones won bronze in the all-around and the uneven bars.

In the final days of Worlds, Biles earned gold in the floor and beam. Her only slip-up came during the vault final. She fell on the landing of an extremely difficult skill formerly known as the Yurchenko double pike that is now called the Biles II. During the qualifying round the previous week, she became the first woman to successfully land

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

SOCCER

On October 7, the Portland Thorns beat Gotham FC, 1–0, to secure a spot in the NWSL (National Women's Soccer League) playoffs. Hina Sugita headed in the goal for the Thorns. Also that day, soccer legend Megan Rapinoe played her final home match for the OL Reign. The match against the Washington Spirit ended in a draw, but it was a big win for the NWSL: 34,130 fans were in attendance, a league record.

Kelvin Kiptum

DISTANCE RUNNING

Kelvin Kiptum from Kenya won the Chicago Marathon on October 8 with a time of 2:00:35, a marathon world record. Dutch runner Sifan Hassan won the women's race and set a new course record with a time of 2:13:44.

FORMULA 1 RACING

On October 7, Dutch racer Max Verstappen of Team Red Bull won the Qatar Grand Prix and the Formula 1 world championship. It is his third straight world title.

DID YOU KNOW?
The XFL and USFL, two pro football leagues that play in the spring, are planning to merge in 2024.

Chicago Bears players, from left, Quindell Johnson, Justin Fields, and Tyrique Stevenson

Week of thrilling wins in the NFL

The 2023 NFL (National Football League) season is in full swing. Through Week 5, the Philadelphia Eagles and San Francisco 49ers remained undefeated.

The most memorable win of the week came on October 5, when the Chicago Bears beat the Washington Commanders, 40–20. The victory snapped the Bears' 14-game losing streak, which was the longest active losing streak in the NFL.

In one of the many games on October 8, the Detroit Lions, who are one of this season's standouts, improved their record to 4–1 after dominating the Carolina Panthers, 42–24. The Lions have not performed this well since 2011. The team hasn't made the NFL playoffs since 2016 or won a playoff game since 1991, so they are giving fans hope that will change this season.

The Miami Dolphins are another exciting team. They beat the New York Giants, 31–16, on October 8 and improved their record to 4–1. So far, the Dolphins have gained a combined 2,568 offensive yards, which is a new NFL record for a team through its first five games. The best performing team, however, is considered to be the 49ers. By a score of 42–10, they crushed the Dallas Cowboys, who have one of the best defenses this season. It was quarterback Brock Purdy's 10th straight regular season win with the 49ers.

Meanwhile, Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes reached a big milestone. With his team's 27–20 win over the Minnesota Vikings, Mahomes, age 28, became the youngest NFL quarterback to beat every NFL team other than his own. The Chiefs are now 4–1.

COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Kimberly Nitschke**

Team: **Kingsgate Skating Club (figure skating)**

"Coach Kimberly is awesome! She has been teaching me for more than a year. She helps me correct my moves and teaches me new things to keep me challenged. She inspires me and encourages me to make things better. Sometimes I have a class with my friend and she teaches us how to learn from looking at other people. She makes the class go by in a blur and makes our learning so fun! She told me I always have the next chance." Carolyn, 8, Washington

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to *hello@theweekjunior.com.* Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Gabe Puthoff

AGE: 21 SPORT: WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL AND TENNIS
TEAM: AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Active life I was born with spina bifida, a birth defect that affects the spine. My family didn't know about the world of adaptive sports, so I played able-bodied sports like football, baseball, and volleyball up until about eighth grade.

Big switch My dad had the idea to check out a local junior wheelchair basketball team, the Cincinnati Dragons. I loved it and ended up joining the team my sophomore year in high school. I started tennis lessons about the same time, but I didn't play my first match until my freshman year in college.

On a roll Basketball players who play tennis are more physically conditioned because we are wheeling up and down the court. There are specific wheelchairs for each sport, but we've been using basketball chairs for both. There's no big difference.

Best benefits I enjoy the team aspect of basketball. You have a support system on the court, and everyone has to play their part to win the game. With tennis, spending a few hours outside in the sun helps with mental health. Also, nothing feels better than acing your opponent on a serve.

Major moment This year in tennis, we played in the national championship against Alabama. It did not go our way, but I won the Sportsmanship Award. My goals are to win a national championship in basketball and tennis.

Words of wisdom There are going to be ups and downs in sports, just like in life. You're going to have good days and bad days. Just keep at it.

GETTY IMAGES; AUBURN ADAPTED ATHLETICS (2); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3); AP

WOW! *Goosebumps* books have been published in 32 languages, and there are more than 400 million copies in print.

Goosebumps

Show based on R.L. Stine books

The new *Goosebumps* TV series draws inspiration from five of the famous author's spooky stories.

Author R.L. Stine's popular *Goosebumps* series has been scaring and entertaining kids for more than 30 years. Now a new TV series of the same name is taking elements from five of Stine's most loved stories and delivering a new spooky tale. The show, which is rated TV-14, is out now on Disney+ and Hulu.

Stine published the first *Goosebumps* book in 1992. Some of the books that helped inspire the new show are *Say Cheese and Die!* and *The Haunted Mask*. In the TV series, weird things start happening to high school students after they attend a Halloween party at a house where a teen who died once lived. The kids team up to investigate what is going on so it stops ruining their lives. "R.L. Stine read and blessed the scripts," executive producer Conor Welch told *The Week Junior*. "He was thrilled and excited with what we made."

R.L. Stine

Welch and fellow executive producer Pavun Shetty were *Goosebumps* fans as kids. They liked that the hauntings in the books stemmed from relatable issues, such as feeling invisible or wanting to redo something that didn't go well. They embraced the same idea in the TV series, Welch said, and made sure it also mixed mild horror with comedy. "It's scary enough where kids feel like there's a thrill, the same way that we were thrilled when we were reading the books," Shetty told *The Week Junior*. Viewers don't need to be *Goosebumps* readers, but fans will appreciate some details in the TV series, including an appearance by Slappy, an evil dummy.

The five main characters in the show are very different kids. They don't all start out as friends, but they connect over unexpected similarities. "One takeaway, hopefully, will be that friends can be found in unexpected places," Welch said.

More R.L. Stine to watch

The original *Goosebumps* TV show

This kids' series ran from 1995 to 1998 and was a top show in the US. Each episode told a different story. R.L. Stine was the host of season one.

The Haunting Hour

A collection of 10 tales written by Stine inspired this award-winning show that premiered in 2010. Episodes revolve around werewolves, clowns, life-size dolls, and other creepy subjects.

Goosebumps movie

In this 2015 film, R.L. Stine is a character who is played by comic actor Jack Black. After creatures from his books become part of the real world, his daughter and two boys have to save their town.

Usher to perform at Super Bowl

The NFL (National Football League) has announced that award-winning pop/R&B artist Usher will headline the 2024 Super Bowl Halftime Show. It is set to take place in Las Vegas, Nevada, on February 11 and will air live on CBS.

Usher, whose full name is Usher Raymond, has been called "the King of R&B." He sang in his church choir as a child and signed his first recording contract at age 14. He has won eight Grammys (top music award), and his hit singles include the songs "DJ Got Us Fallin' in Love," "Yeah!," and "OMG."

Playing the halftime show is a big honor in the music world. Last year's performer was Rihanna, and other recent headliners include The Weeknd, Shakira and Jennifer Lopez, and Coldplay. The show is produced by the NFL and the record company Roc Nation, which is owned by hip-hop legend Jay-Z. Officials from the NFL, Roc Nation, and the Super Bowl host city choose the halftime act based on fan followings and the way an artist represents pop culture today. Many people saw Usher as a good fit for the halftime show because he currently has a sold-out musical residency (concerts performed at one location) in Las Vegas and a new album coming out in February.

A Super Bowl Halftime Show usually lasts about 12 to 15 minutes. Headliners often bring out special guests, but Usher has not announced any yet. What he has said is that it will be "a night of celebration." He also promised an unforgettable performance full of singing, dancing, and even roller skating. "This is a moment that I have waited my entire life for," he told *CBS Mornings*. "I am not coming to disappear."

READER RECOMMENDS

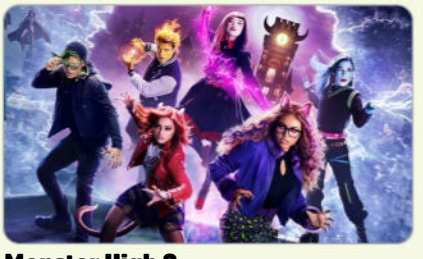
Wolfwalkers *PG (Apple TV+)*

"In an Irish town, humans are cutting down a forest where a wolf pack lives. The pack includes wolfwalker Mebh, a girl who becomes a wolf when she sleeps. A wolf hunter comes to the town to kill the animals, and he brings his daughter, Robyn, who wants to be a hunter, too. One day, she stumbles into one of her father's traps. Mebh, in wolf form, tries to set Robyn free and accidentally bites her. Later, when Robyn goes to sleep, she becomes a wolf. This movie has messages about seeing things from someone else's point of view, and the animation and music are wonderful." Freja, 13, California

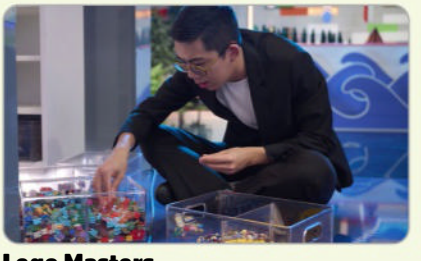
Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST

Predators
(Netflix)
This new documentary series allows viewers to see life through the eyes of lions in Botswana, polar bears in Canada, and other predators in their natural habitats. Each episode uses up-close footage to show how these powerful hunters dominate and also fight to survive.



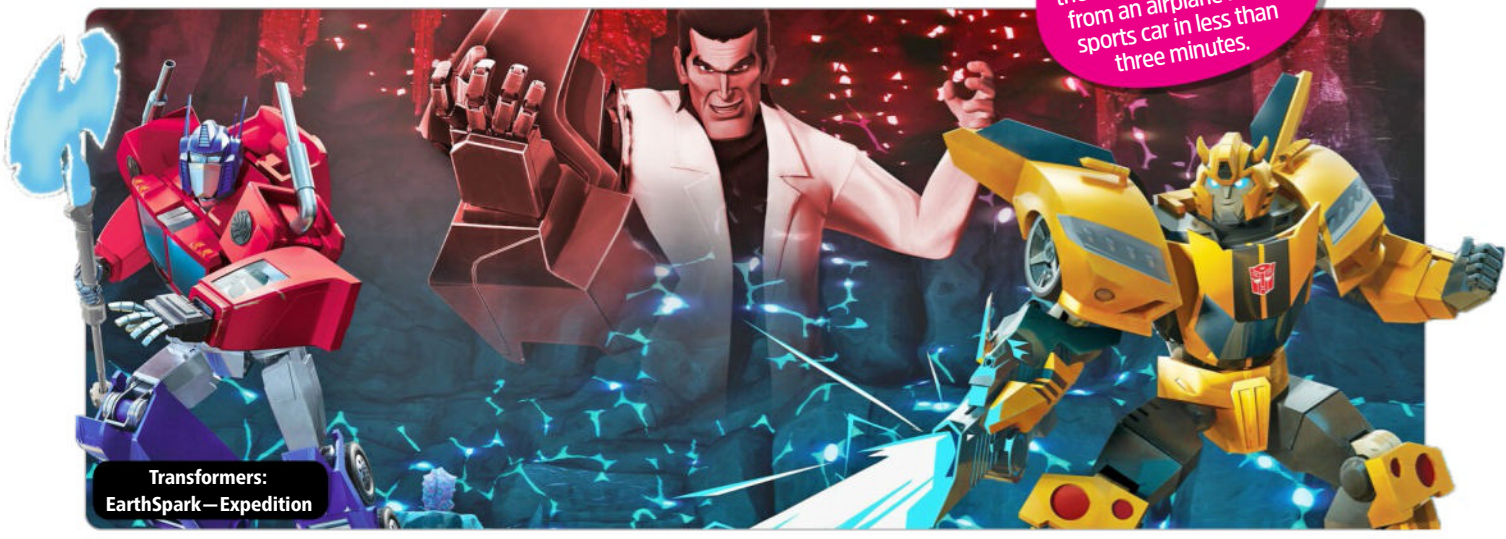
Monster High 2
(Paramount+)
Friends Clawdeen, Draculaura, Frankie, and Deuce from the live-action movie musical *Monster High* are back. As they enter their sophomore year of high school, there are new students, new powers, and a new threat that forces them to travel to the human world.



Lego Masters
(Fox) Thursdays at 9 pm ET
It's season four of the popular competition series. As usual, pairs compete to win a grand prize of $100,000 and see one of their Lego builds become a real set. Look forward to epic challenges, such as a Lego remote control vehicle race and exploding volcanoes.

GETTY IMAGES; NFL; APPLE TV+; COURTESY OF NETFLIX; NICKELODEON; TOM GRISCOM/FOX; ON LEFT PAGE: DISNEY/DAVID ASTORGA; GETTY IMAGES; SCHOLASTIC; DISCOVERY FAMILY; ALAMY

FUN FACT
A real vehicle called the AirCar can transform from an airplane into a sports car in less than three minutes.



Transformers: EarthSpark—Expedition

Battle evil as a Transformer

Transformers: EarthSpark—Expedition is a new action-adventure game out now for the Nintendo Switch, PlayStation platforms, Xbox systems, and PC.

The game is based on *Transformers: EarthSpark*, an animated series that is part of the popular *Transformers* franchise. The show stars two young new robot Transformers named Twitch and Thrash. They are the first-ever Transformers born on Earth and are known as Terrans. They are discovered by human siblings Robby and Mo Malto and join their family. Eventually, the Terrans are tutored by Bumblebee, a famous robot character in the *Transformers* universe.

Twitch and Thrash train to help the hero Transformers known as Autobots and also work with a top-secret human organization in their fight against evil. The main villain in *EarthSpark* is Mandroid, a cyborg scientist. In the game, you play as Bumblebee in a battle to stop Mandroid, who has a plan to use ancient technology to dominate the cities of planet Cybertron. The action mostly takes place in a desert, a hidden temple, and snowy mountains.

A scene in the game

The gameplay is straightforward, and you can shift Bumblebee between vehicle and combat robot form with ease. There are a lot of characters to interact with throughout the game, including Optimus Prime, the original hero of the *Transformers* universe. He gives instructions to Bumblebee during the mission and fights with Mandroid's army of spider-like Arachnamechs.

Expedition isn't just about fighting Mandroid, though. The game is filled with classic *Transformers* villains. Longtime fans will be thrilled by the familiar faces, while newcomers will enjoy discovering the robot-filled world.

PODCAST OF THE WEEK

MINA & LUCY'S GUIDE TO SLAYING DRACULA

Amazon Music, Apple Podcasts, Spotify

Bram Stoker's classic novel *Dracula* loosely inspired this new series. It follows two friends and the strange happenings in their small town. It begins with the girls discovering a shipwreck with eerie creatures and a new boy joining their school.

CHANNEL OF THE WEEK

PBS TERRA

youtube.com/@pbsterra

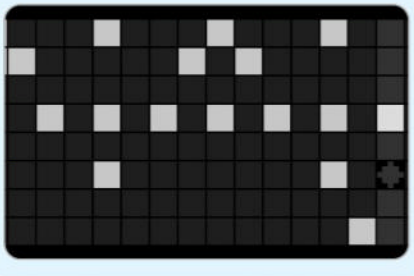
This YouTube channel reveals fascinating things about nature. There are short videos that answer questions like "What do you eat in Antarctica?" and "Why does this sea glow in the dark?" as well as series such as *Untold Earth*, which spotlights unique locations around the world.

WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

TONEMATRIX

tonematrix.audiotool.com

Create an original tune in seconds with this simple online tool. You start with a blank grid, then build your own melody by tapping or clicking squares to turn them on and off. It's interesting to discover how the sound changes when squares in different places are turned on.



OUTRIGHT GAMES (2); GEN Z MEDIA; PBS TERRA VIA YOUTUBE; AUDIOTOOL INC.

OUR OCTOBER BOOK CLUB PICK

Cut Loose!

By Ali Stroker and Stacy Davidowitz
(Amulet Books)

After Nat played a lead role in the musical *Wicked* at camp, she thought she'd have to wait until next summer to be onstage again. But now her new middle school is putting on the musical *Footloose*. She decides she wants to audition for the role of Ariel, the main female character. The school is also planning to enter the show in a new theater competition, and the finalists will get to perform on Broadway! Trouble is, *Footloose* includes many dance numbers. Nat uses a wheelchair, and she's worried that the complicated choreography may prevent her from landing the role. She knows she has to wow the director at the audition and plans to sing a duet with her friend Malik. Their friend Hudson helps them work on dance moves. Even though Malik barely makes it to the theater in time for the audition, he and Nat nail their performance. They make the cast, and Nat gets Ariel! But the rehearsals are full of drama (not the good kind), and Nat is tested in ways she never would have imagined. Packed with Broadway references, this uplifting book is the sequel to *The Chance to Fly*.

WIN A BOOK!

We're giving away one signed copy of *Cut Loose!*

For a chance to win, send your name and address to *contests@theweekjunior.com* with Cut Loose! in the subject line. Enter by midnight on November 3. See theweekjunior.com/terms for complete rules.

BOOK: COURTESY OF PUBLISHER; AUTHOR: BRIGITTE JOUXTEL; GETTY IMAGES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB

Cut Loose! explores the challenges of middle school friendships and going after your dreams. These questions can help you talk about the book with friends and family who have also read it.

Some of Nat's castmates think she landed the part of Ariel because of her disability. What's your take?

Do you think Hudson should have told Nat right away that he felt left out?

After reading this book, what have you learned about challenges people who use wheelchairs may face?

In what way did some of the adult characters in this book display poor behavior?

Does this book inspire you in any way? If so, how?

Are you satisfied with the ending? Why or why not?

JOIN *THE WEEK JUNIOR*'S BOOK CLUB

Watch a special video Ali Stroker created for *The Week Junior* and learn more about how our monthly book club works at kids.theweekjunior.com/bookclub.

Ask the author

Ali Stroker, the first actor who uses a wheelchair to win a Tony Award, co-wrote *Cut Loose!* with playwright Stacy Davidowitz. "After *The Chance to Fly* came out, we jumped on the phone to plan the sequel," Stroker said. *The Week Junior* spoke to her about her childhood and more.

Was middle school hard for you?

Yes, I felt like an outsider and was worried that I wouldn't be able to keep up.

How can a student help a classmate who feels left out?

You don't have to be their best friend—just talk to them. Ask them what they're into right now or if they are doing anything fun after school. These kinds of questions may open a conversation that could change somebody's day, week, or even life.

Growing up, did you read a lot?

In elementary school, I was into Roald Dahl books, like *Matilda*. But as I got to middle school, I struggled with reading because I didn't feel represented in books. That's why Stacy and I decided we wanted to write books for this age group.

Why do you love being onstage?

Every single time you do the same show, it's different and you never know what's going to happen.

Do you have advice for kids who feel anxious at auditions?

Being nervous is normal. I still get nervous before every performance and audition. Nerves are a result of caring about something. If you feel nervous, pause and take five deep breaths.

What was your most fun Halloween costume ?

In third or fourth grade, I was a cab driver! We put cardboard boxes around my wheelchair and painted them yellow.

DID YOU KNOW?
Halloween is believed to date back more than 2,000 years.

Host a spooky movie night

Get into the spirit of Halloween with a special screening for family or friends.

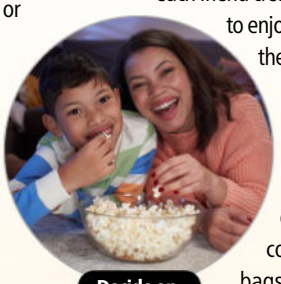
You may already be planning to celebrate Halloween by wearing a costume and going trick-or-treating. Another fun activity to try this season is hosting a spooky movie night for friends or family. Here are some tips for planning a fun event.

Schedule a date

With Halloween happening on October 31, a date between now and then will work for your movie night. Decide whether you want it to be a family event, or talk to an adult about inviting friends. A Friday or Saturday night might be a good option so you can start the movie after dark—making the mood more eerie—and not have to worry about staying up too late on a school night. Once you have a date and time picked out, reach out to anyone you would like to invite.

Pick a movie

You can check out the Halloween-themed movies on your family's streaming services or see what you might be able to borrow for free from the library. Talk to an adult about which movie might be fun and age-appropriate for everyone who is attending. If you want friends to help you choose, you could narrow the selection down to three options and take a quick vote when everyone arrives. (If you're looking for inspiration, see the suggestions at right.)



Decide on snacks.

Serve snacks

Popcorn is a classic movie treat and easy to make for a group. You can serve it plain or set up a popcorn bar. Place one large bowl of popcorn on a counter with several smaller bowls of toppings—like chocolate chips, pretzels, small candies, Halloween-colored sprinkles, garlic powder, and Parmesan cheese. Set out brown paper lunch bags, festive stickers, and black and orange markers so guests can personalize their bags. Then let each friend create their own bag of popcorn and toppings to enjoy during the movie. You could also make the monster treats (at right) in advance!

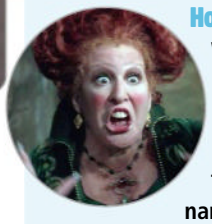
Get the room ready

Depending on how many people you are hosting, you may want to add extra seating to your TV area. You could gather beanbag chairs, sleeping bags, and extra pillows to make the space cozy. Or, with an adult's help, set up cushions or air mattresses on the floor for extra comfort. You might also consider decorating the room in a Halloween theme. A few fun ideas: Set out plastic pumpkins with fake candles inside to help create a spooky mood once you dim the lights. Place small pumpkins or gourds on tables. Make paper chains in orange and black to drape around the space. Cut out spider and ghost shapes to hang from the ceiling.

4 fun movies for Halloween season

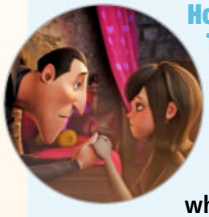
Check out one of these classics, from cute to creepy, for your movie night.

It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown
Halloween is a big night for the Peanuts gang. Even if you've already seen this fan favorite, it can be fun to rewatch it with a group.

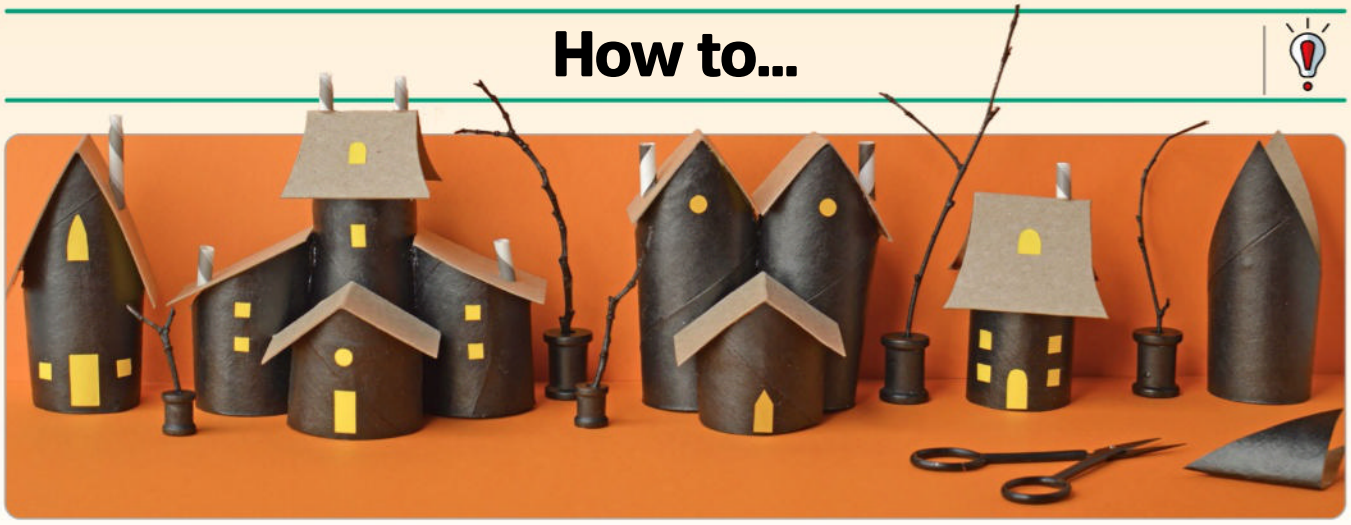


Hocus Pocus
When three witches are accidentally freed by a teenage boy named Max in this comedy fantasy movie, Halloween night suddenly gets interesting!

Frankenweenie
In this animated stop-motion film, mayhem ensues when a young scientist named Victor Frankenstein brings his beloved pet dog back to life—as the bionic Frankenweenie.



Hotel Transylvania
The guests at Hotel Transylvania are like a who's who of Halloween lore: Dracula runs the hotel, and a Frankenstein mummy and werewolves round out the guests. Find out what happens when the townspeople get word of this creepy vacation destination.



Craft cardboard haunted houses

What you need

- Toilet paper tubes
- Black paint and brush
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Scrap paper
- Scrap cardboard
- White glue
- Yellow paper
- Paper straws

Instructions

1. Paint all the tubes black and let dry.
2. Hold a paper tube upright and gently squeeze the top part until flat. With the flattened top facing you, use a pencil to make a dot in the middle of the top edge of the tube. This dot will help you know where to cut.
3. Cut the roofline: Starting from an inch or two down the side of the tube, cut at an angle toward the center dot at the top of the tube. This will make a slanted line. Take the triangular piece you cut off and use it as a template on the opposite side of the tube to make another angled cut. Now you have a pointy roofline.
4. Place a folded strip of scrap paper over the house like a roof, then cut it down to the right size. Use that paper as a template to cut out a cardboard roof. Glue on top.
5. Glue on small yellow paper shapes for the windows and doors, as well as a piece of a paper straw for the chimney.
6. Continue by making a few houses out of single paper tubes or gluing a few tubes of different heights together to make a larger haunted house.

Make crispy monster treats

Ingredients

- 3 tablespoons butter
- 10 ounces marshmallows
- 6 cups Rice Krispies cereal
- Candy melts and eyes in assorted colors plus candy corn

FUN FACT
The recipe for Kellogg's Rice Krispies treats first appeared on Rice Krispies cereal boxes in 1941.

WARNING!
Ask an adult's permission before using the stove.

Instructions

1. In a large saucepan, melt the butter over low heat. Add the marshmallows and stir until completely melted. Remove from heat.
2. Add the cereal and stir until well coated. Set aside until cool enough to handle but still flexible.
3. Using greased hands, form handfuls of the mixture into different blob and monster shapes. Set on a piece of parchment or waxed paper. Let cool.
4. Melt the candy melts according to the package directions. One at a time, hold a treat near the bottom and invert it into the bowl, turning it to coat. Use your fingers to smooth out the candy melt.
5. Return the treats to the paper and decorate as you wish with candy eyes and candy corn. Set aside monster treats until the coating has hardened. Makes about 15 treats.

JODI LEVINE FOR SUPERMAKEIT; ERICA CLARK FOR STONE KITCHEN CREATIVE; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); ALAMY (4)

Keyword crossword

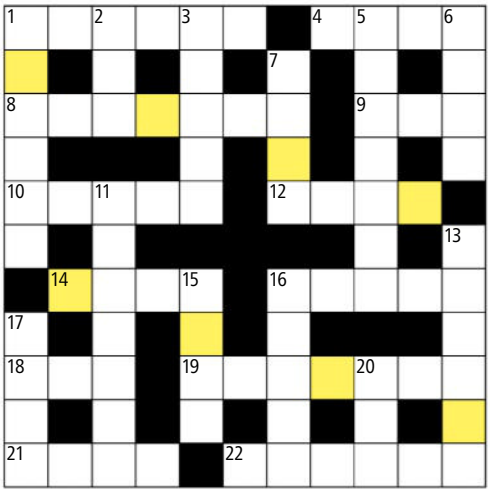
Once you have completed the crossword, transfer the letters in the yellow boxes, in order, into the boxes below to get the answer to the Keyword question.

ACROSS

1 The seventh planet from the Sun
4 In a Harry Potter costume, this is shaped like a lightning bolt
8 Water bird whose bill has a large pouch
9 Number of cents in the thinnest and smallest US coin
10 It's felt along the edge of some coins
12 Yellow part of a chicken egg
14 Instrument that can sound like a beating heart
16 Chewy bread shaped like a doughnut
18 "The ___ and the Grasshopper" (fable about two insects)
19 Transportation associated with Venice, Italy
21 Skeleton ___ (items that can open any lock)
22 Soccer or hockey player who guards the net

DOWN

1 The "judge" in a baseball game
2 Every single one
3 The brother of a parent
5 List of products that a company prints for its customers to choose from
6 Sound from a doorbell when trick-or-treaters arrive
7 "Beauty is ___ skin deep"
11 Visitor to the Emerald City
13 "Magic word" spoken at the dinner table
15 Coffee cups
16 Instrument heard in bluegrass music
17 Face covering for October 31
20 Nocturnal bird pictured in Halloween decorations



Keyword question: Which candy got its name when it didn't turn out perfectly round as intended?

THREE FOR ALL

Sort this list into three familiar three-part phrases, like THREE-RING CIRCUS or SALT LAKE CITY.

NAILS OVER BUMPS BITING ALL GOOSE GETTING YOUR SHAKING

CODE CRACKER

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

In this coded list of sounds heard in a haunted house, every letter has been replaced with a substitute. The same substitutions are used throughout the list. Hint: Every X here is an uncoded D. Use the letter patterns you find to crack the code. (NEED ANOTHER HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

L A G N H B X P P A

M F A V G H M

D F T W X G A

M L T A A B V W O Z V L G

Cutting room

Divide this grid into five sections so each section consists of five adjacent boxes containing the numbers 1–5. The sections may have different shapes.

2	3	1	3	1
5	5	2	4	1
4	1	4	3	5
3	2	5	1	2
4	3	2	4	5

Spot the difference

These two pictures of Halloween candy appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

Code cracker hint: Every H here is an uncoded K.

Dogs have their day at the movies

Guinness World Records called it a "pawsome" day when more than 200 dogs got together to watch a new film. On September 24, pups and their owners arrived at the lawn of a museum in Los Angeles, California, and settled in to watch *Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie*. The event, which was held in partnership with an animal sanctuary, set a record for the most dogs attending a film screening. A Guinness World Records official said, "It's not every day I get to enjoy...time at the movies with hundreds of furry friends."

What are you doing in my swamp?

A few lucky fans will be "ogre" the moon when they spend the night in Shrek's swamp. The vacation rental company Airbnb re-created the home from the 2001 movie *Shrek* in a Scottish forest. The listing explains that Shrek's friend, Donkey, is "swamp-sitting" while the ogre is away. The "mud-laden, moss-covered, murky-watered oasis" features a humble tree-stump home with a fireplace and a dirt floor, just like in the movie. People can start booking on October 13 for a free two-night stay, and the site is predicted to be swamped with requests.

Double the fun in new school year

A school district in Pennsylvania is experiencing a remarkable phenomenon it is calling "Twin-dergarten." This school year, 17 sets of twins enrolled in kindergarten at the five schools in Colonial School District. The district said this is the highest number of twins they have seen in an incoming class. "Usually, there are maybe a couple sets of twins, if that," said teacher Peggy Smith. But this year, every kindergarten classroom contains a student with a "built-in buddy," according to the district. "I always have someone to play with at home," said one of the twin students. "Now I have somebody to play with at school."

The art show of empty frames

An artist in Denmark is in big trouble. The Kunsten Museum of Modern Art gave him about $70,000 in paper money to create works of art. He was supposed to turn the bills into art that would represent how much money people earn in different countries. Instead, the artist submitted blank canvases and named his project *Take the Money and Run*. The museum has now demanded that the artist give back the cash. Is this story real? Or are we giving you a run for your money?*

*Real! A court ruled that the artist had to repay the money to the museum—but he could keep a fee for his "labor," since the museum still displayed the empty "artwork." The artist has appealed the court's ruling.

GETTY IMAGES (5); ALEX MCINTOSH/AIRBNB (2); ALAMY; AP; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2)

Editor's note

When *The Week Junior* went to press on October 10, violence had broken out in the Middle East (p2). After a militant group called Hamas attacked Israel, Israel declared war on Hamas. What has occurred is upsetting to all of us on the editorial team and may be upsetting to you too. Many government leaders and individuals around the world have condemned the violence and called for an end to the fighting. I hope our article will help you understand what is happening and that you will speak to a trusted adult if you have questions or concerns. I also encourage you to talk to your family about what you can do to help those in need, whether in the Middle East or your own community. During difficult times, it can be a source of strength and comfort to feel you are making a difference. I send my kindest regards to all our readers and their families.

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief

CHARITY OF THE WEEK

Sustainable Surf

This organization takes action against climate change. It works with groups around the world to help them protect their environment, such as by planting and restoring mangrove forests. It also advises surf brands on how they can make surfboards using sustainable materials. Since 2011, it has planted about 2 million trees along coastal areas. Find out more at sustainablesurf.org.

SUS TAIN ABLE SURF

Helping kids who are hungry

"In 2021, I started Brooklyn Slime so I could donate to No Kid Hungry. I've been selling my homemade slime in our neighborhood parks, at playgrounds and craft fairs, and even online. I also host slime-making classes and birthday parties where I show other kids how to make it. I just love slime and I wanted to share that love while also helping kids who don't have enough to eat. I've made over 1,000 slimes now, and I'm so proud to have raised more than $5,000 to support No Kid Hungry!"

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

JOKE OF THE WEEK

Why did the scarecrow win a Nobel Prize?

He was outstanding in his field

Apply to join Junior Council!

***The Week Junior* is conducting a national search for 12 students, ages 8 to 14, who want to have their voices heard about the issues and causes that matter to them. This will be our fifth session of Junior Council, and council members will meet directly with *The Week Junior* editors and mentors. There will be about six virtual workshops held from January through May 2024. A project created by council members may appear in a future issue of the magazine. To apply, go to juniorcouncil.theweekjunior.com to download the application. The deadline to enter is October 23.**

Junior Council THE WEEK Junior

THE WEEK Junior IT'S YOUR TURN Email your news, views, and photos to *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.

"I love to read *The Week Junior* on a long car ride, especially before I hike." Hudson, 12, Texas

"I was so excited to see the Rubik's Cube on the cover of *The Week Junior*." Amiya, 12, New York

"I had to improvise a few ingredients for the Green Goddess Pasta Salad from Issue 180, but it tasted amazing afterward!" Cecil, 9, Oregon

Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Kim Smith**

School: **Prussing Elementary**

"Ms. Smith is a great teacher! We learn a lot, and we also get extra recess and free time. This makes for a good balance of learning and exercise. She tells stories and always tries to make school fun!"

Joel, 8, Illinois

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week! Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

Puzzle answers (from page 26)

Keyword answer: Milk Duds

Code cracker
creaky door
shrieks
thunder
scurrying mice

Three for all
biting your nails
getting goose bumps
shaking all over

2	3	1	3	1
5	5	2	4	1
4	1	4	3	5
3	2	5	1	2
4	3	2	4	5

Quiz answers (from page 30)

1 c) Utah **2** True **3** b) Ruth Bader Ginsburg **4** Cryopreservation **5** a) Slappy **6** True **7** b) Barrettes **8** *Footloose* **9** a) Takahē **10** False. He signed it when he was 14. **11** b) Bumblebee **12** Iran **13** False. They came from a mine in Australia. **14** Meteorology **15** c) Shrek

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 In which US state is candy corn the most popular Halloween candy?

a) Pennsylvania b) Idaho c) Utah

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2 True or false? Scientists re-created the scent of a mummy that was buried more than 3,500 years ago.

True ☐ False ☐

3 The US Postal Service has unveiled a new stamp honoring which Supreme Court justice?

a) Antonin Scalia

b) Ruth Bader Ginsburg

c) Sandra Day O'Connor

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

4 What is the technique of freezing corals in order to preserve and revive them called?

5 The evil dummy who appears in the new *Goosebumps* TV series goes by what name?

a) Slappy b) Shaky c) Slippy

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

6 True or false? Six countries will take part in hosting the 2030 FIFA World Cup.

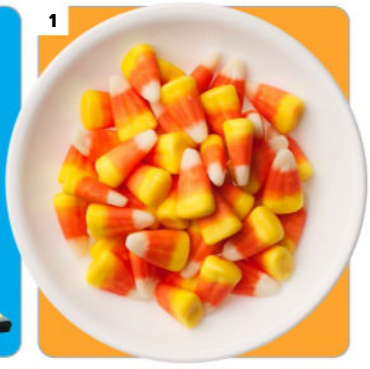
True ☐ False ☐

7 What customized item did Reese Witherspoon sell to her classmates in third grade?

a) Notebooks b) Barrettes c) Pencil cases

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

8 In the novel *Cut Loose!*, which musical does Nat audition for?



ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

9 What bird has returned to its New Zealand habitat after about 100 years?

a) Takahē

b) Weka

c) Kiwi

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

10 True or false? The singer Usher signed his first recording contract when he was 18.

True ☐ False ☐

11 In the video game Transformers: EarthSpark—Expedition, users play as which Transformer?

a) Optimus Prime

b) Bumblebee

c) Sideswipe

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

12 This year's Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Narges Mohammadi, an activist from which country?

13 True or false? About 90% of the world's pink diamonds came from one mine in Argentina.

True ☐ False ☐

14 What is the study of Earth's atmosphere and its phenomena called?

15 A new Airbnb listing in Scotland is modeled after which animated character's home?

a) Elsa b) Gru c) Shrek

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

THE WEEK Junior

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The Week Junior (ISSN 2689-9027) is published weekly, except January 6, January 13, July 7, and September 15. *The Week Junior* is published by Future US LLC, 130 West 42nd Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10036. Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTERS: Send change of address to *The Week Junior*, PO Box 37595, Boone, IA 50037-7595.

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CHRISTIAN TEPPER/MUSEUM AUGUST KESTNER; HASBRO/NICKELODEON; GETTY IMAGES (3)

Give a sweet treat to inspire young minds

Reading sparks a lifetime love of learning, gets kids on track for success, and helps them identify and follow their passions. There are stories in *The Week Junior* that speak to every child and inspire them to keep reading.

Give *The Week Junior* and save 66% off the cover price. For less than $2 an issue, less than the cost of a full-size candy bar, your child can be inspired to read every week! Plus, if you subscribe today, your child will receive a **free puzzle book!**

Order online at theweekjunior.com/mummy

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SCENIC VIEW
Maroon Bells, two of the most photographed peaks in Colorado, is part of the Elk Mountain range and stands about 14,000 feet tall.

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